



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 August 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports a tanker truck loaded with flammable liquid exploded in Sioux Center, Iowa, forcing about 2,000 people — nearly a third of the population — to evacuate for several hours. (See item [5](#))
- CNN reports at least three people were killed when an interstate bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, collapsed Wednesday evening, August 1, plunging cars and chunks of concrete into the Mississippi River below. (See item [16](#))
- The U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration announced an agreement that could lead to the first LNG ships registered in the United States in almost ten years, potentially creating almost 200 jobs for U.S. mariners. (See item [20](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 01, Associated Press* — **TVA approves finishing nuclear reactor.** The Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) board of directors voted unanimously Wednesday, August 1, to begin a five-year plan to finish a second nuclear reactor at the Watt Bar Nuclear Plant on the Tennessee River. The Spring City station, about 50 miles south of Knoxville, was the last new

nuclear plant to come on line in the United States when it fired up one of its two planned reactors in 1996. The second reactor was never finished because of cost overruns. The plan to finish it is expected to cost about \$2.5 billion, likely funded by the public utility's revenues and adding debt. TVA is the nation's largest public utility, providing wholesale electricity through 158 distributors to about 8.7 million consumers and directly to several dozen large manufacturers in Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/T/TVA_NUCLEAR?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

2. *August 01, Los Angeles Times* — **Edison pushes smart meters.** High-tech household meters moved a step closer to reality Tuesday, July 31, as Southern California Edison told regulators that the devices would save its customers \$109 million more than the program's estimated 20-year cost of \$1.97 billion. The utility's conclusion that the benefits outweigh the project's cost was a key hurdle on the path toward introducing so-called smart meters, which Edison said would also reduce consumption during crucial periods by as much as 1,000 megawatts, equal to the output of a large power plant. Edison's proposal is part of a wave of advanced metering initiatives being proposed across the country. This summer, Edison is set to begin field tests at 3,000 to 5,000 sites. If it wins approval from the state Public Utilities Commission next year, the utility would install 5.3 million smart meters to cover all its residential and business customers who use less than 200 kilowatts of power at any given moment. Edison, a subsidiary of Rosemead, CA-based Edison International, provides power to more than 13 million people across central, coastal and Southern California. Other utilities in California, including Pacific Gas & Electric Co. in the Bay Area and San Diego Gas & Electric Co., are embarking on similar advanced metering projects.

Source: http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-edison1aug01.0.3571119_story?coll=la-home-center

3. *August 01, FOX News* — **Rescuers pull 69 trapped miners from Chinese coal mine.** Onlookers burst into applause as 69 coal miners who were trapped in a flooded shaft for more than three days were pulled out Wednesday, August 1, in a rare rescue from the world's deadliest mines. The 69 were stuck underground but uninjured after the state-owned Zhijian mine in Henan province's Shan County filled with water early Sunday. Thirty-three miners managed to escape. The trapped miners were pulled out alive midday Wednesday, the Xinhua News Agency reported. Rescuers had piped in oxygen in a bid to keep the miners healthy and buy time to save them. They poured 149 gallons of milk down the 2625-foot ventilation pipe, which the miners drank from their helmets. It was their only source of nourishment in 76 hours, Xinhua said. China's coalmines are the world's deadliest, with fatalities reported nearly every day in fires, explosions and floods despite government efforts to improve safety. Deadly accidents often are blamed on mine owners who disregard safety rules and fail to invest in required ventilation, fire control and other equipment.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0.2933.291672.00.html>

4. *July 31, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **Entergy signs nuclear component deal with GE-Hitachi.** Entergy on Tuesday, July 31, said it had signed a project development agreement with GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy that includes a major advanced reactor components order. Proceeding with the order now will ensure timely delivery of what Entergy termed

"schedule-critical" parts should the New Orleans-based company decide to build a new nuclear unit. Entergy Nuclear, through NuStart Energy Development, is on pace to file a combined construction and operating license application with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission at the Grand Gulf site in Mississippi by the end of the year, and it is targeting a mid-2008 COL application for the River Bend site in Louisiana. With a growing number of utilities around the world deciding to build new nuclear reactors, the supply market for important plant components is expected to tighten in the coming years, and by ordering components from the GE-Hitachi consortium now, Entergy is preserving its ability to start commercial operation of a new plant in 2017.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6407809.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *August 01, Associated Press* — **Iowa tanker explosion forces evacuations.** A tanker truck loaded with flammable liquid exploded in Sioux Center, IA, forcing about 2,000 people — nearly a third of the population — to evacuate for several hours. Fire Chief David Van Holland said Wednesday, August 1, that the investigation into the cause of the blast was still under way. The truck's liquid cargo was being transferred to a railroad car Tuesday afternoon when the truck exploded at the Farmers Co-op Society. Authorities ordered an evacuation of residents within a half-mile of the site, just west of the town's business district. Squad cars blocked off nearby streets, and yellow police tape kept people from entering downtown. No buildings were destroyed, and the evacuation order was lifted shortly before midnight.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/T/TANKER_EXPLOSION?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

6. *August 01, Jackson Sun (TN)* — **Construction crews cause gas leak.** Crews building a traffic signal at a downtown Jackson, TN, intersection accidentally bored a hole in a gas line Tuesday, July 31, interrupting service to some customers and blocking traffic to the intersection for several hours. The mishap occurred on Royal Street at the intersection with Lexington Avenue.

Source: <http://www.jacksonsun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070801/NEWS01/708010315/1002>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *August 01, InfoWorld* — **Payment card regulations get mixed reviews.** There appears to be little debate that the payment card industry's latest data security standard is improving the

protection of electronic customer records. Some enterprise IT leaders, however, complain that the guidelines remain inconsistent and hard to interpret. Finalized in September 2006, the Version 1.1 iteration of the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard added new requirements to the initial set of data protection rules that major credit card issuers began demanding of their business partners beginning in 2005. The standard's increasingly strict financial penalties, combined with uncertainty over the manner in which third-party auditors will interpret the rules, have made tackling PCI 1.1 a tricky proposition to manage, some large credit card processors contend. "With 1.1 there were dramatic changes in terms of the severity of the financial penalties that could be applied..." said Rich Isenberg, director of security at CheckFree. New requirements established in PCI 1.1 make it particularly hard for enterprise businesses that share large amounts of computing infrastructure with partners and customers to meet its demands, Isenberg said. The security expert maintains that the regulations weren't designed with such complex enterprise environments in mind.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/08/01/payment-card-data-standards_1.html

8. *August 01, IDG News Service* — **Researchers: Web apps over Wi-Fi puts data at risk.**

Users who access Google's Gmail or the Facebook social-networking site over Wi-Fi could put their accounts at risk of being hijacked, according to research from Errata Security. It's not just those sites but any rich Web applications that exchange account information with users, including blogging sites or even software-as-a-service offerings that could pose a risk for users, wrote Errata CEO Robert Graham and Chief Technology Officer David Maynor in a paper presented at the Black Hat 2007 security conference. Most Websites use encryption when passwords are entered, but because of the expense, the rest of the information exchanged between a browser and a Website is not encrypted. Using a packet sniffer, it's possible to collect cookie information while a user is accessing one of those sites over Wi-Fi. Included in the cookie can be a "session identifier," which is another bit of unique information generated when people log into their accounts. By collecting cookie information and the session identifier with the packet sniffer and importing it into another Web browser, the hacker can get inside a person's account. Meanwhile, the victim is directed to a version of the Webpage they intended to visit, which Errata calls "sidejacking."

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/08/01/Web-apps-over-Wi-Fi-put-data-at-risk_1.html

9. *July 31, eWeek* — **Retailers still retaining prohibited credit card information.** Visa on Monday, July 30, released its latest PCI compliance statistics, revealing that there is still a small handful of major retailers who are retaining prohibited credit card information. Visa stressed in its statement that the vast majority (96 percent) of Level 1 and Level 2 merchants — a category including virtually all of the nation's largest retailers — have written to Visa that "they are not storing sensitive account data" including credit card security codes and PINs. But given that Visa has said that there are 1,057 retailers in that group, that four percent suggests that about 42 major retail chains aren't even claiming that they've stopped retaining that data. Visa estimates that the 96 percent relates roughly equally to both groups, suggesting about 13 retailers in the Level 1 group and about 29 in the Level 2 group. Of all of the PCI security areas, Gartner security analyst Avivah Litan argues that Visa considers retention of prohibited data to be the most serious. "That's the data the banks really care about," Litan said. "If the crook steals the data from the [magnetic] stripe, they can make a perfect card."

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2164552.00.asp>

10. *July 31, Department of Justice* — **Two men indicted for financial institution fraud, access device fraud, and aggravated identity theft.** James Kevin Real and Laray Byrd, both of Birmingham, AL, were indicted Tuesday, July 31, in U.S. District Court on charges of financial institution fraud, access device fraud and aggravated identity theft. An investigation revealed that Defendant Real was a former computer programmer for Compass Bank and had taken a database containing names, account numbers and customer service passwords of Compass Bank account holders. The investigation further revealed that Defendant Byrd had purchased a credit card encoder and corresponding software program for the purpose of encoding information from a database stolen by Real. Both Real and Byrd attempted to execute their elaborate scheme by withdrawing cash from ATMs using fraudulently obtained account information that had been encoded into bank access device cards. The investigation resulted in the recovery of over 200 counterfeit debit/credit cards and the recovery of hundreds of stolen identities. The multi-count indictment charges Real and Byrd with six counts of financial institution fraud, Byrd with one count of access device fraud, Real with four counts of access device fraud, and Real with two counts of aggravated identity theft, and Real with one count of fraudulently possession of access device making equipment.

Source: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/aln/Docs/July%202007/JULY%2031.%202007%20TWO%20MEN%20INDICTED%20FOR%20FINANCIAL%20INSTITUTION%20FRAUD.htm>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *August 01, Associated Press* — **Airline worker killed at North Carolina airport.** An accident involving a plane and a baggage tug killed an American Eagle worker Tuesday evening, July 31, at Raleigh-Durham International Airport, an airline spokesperson said. The worker was a fleet service clerk, and the aircraft was an Embraer jet, said John Hotard, an American Eagle spokesperson in Fort Worth, TX. Fleet clerks load bags and perform similar tasks, he said. American Eagle was investigating. Airport spokesperson Colleen Fischvogt said that no passengers were on the plane at the time, she said. American Eagle operates regional flights for AMR Corp.'s American Airlines.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070801/airport_worker_killed.html?.v=1

12. *August 01, Department of Transportation* — **Proposed federal regulations expected to improve safety of passenger trains.** Rail passengers and train crewmembers will be better protected under newly proposed federal safety standards that significantly enhance the strength of key structural components of passenger rail cars to make them more crashworthy, announced Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph H. Boardman. Boardman explained that the proposed rule is designed to preserve more space in which both passengers and train crew members can safely survive a collision with another train, a vehicle at a highway-rail grade crossing, or other object by strengthening the car's forward structure. Specifically, existing federal standards would be upgraded for cab cars and multiple-unit locomotives, which are used in the predominant method of operation by commuter and intercity passenger railroads across the country, he said. Under the proposed rule, forward corner posts would have to withstand 300,000 pounds of force before failing, doubling the current federal requirement. In addition,

forward corner and collision posts would have to satisfy new federal standards to absorb a minimum level of energy and bend a specific distance without breaking to maximize the full potential strength of these structural components.

A copy of the proposed rule can be viewed at <http://www.fra.dot.gov/>

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fra2007.htm>

13. *August 01, Union Leader (NH)* — **Officials say idling train posed little threat to public.** A federal rail official insists there was little or no danger of someone driving off with a train left idling along a city street in Manchester, NH, for 15 hours Monday, July 30. That's a long time, however, for a train to stop alongside a residential street, spewing exhaust fumes into the air, conceded Steve Kulm, spokesperson for the Federal Railroad Administration. A relief crew didn't show up to move the idling train until 7 p.m. CDT. By then, firefighters had come aboard to make sure the train was secure. Congressional statute limits rail conductors to 12 hours of work in a shift. At that point, the workers must take at least 10 hours off. "They have to bring the train to a stop, and the railroad is responsible for providing a relief crew," said Kulm. "But there are no regulations on how quickly a relief crew must be there to resume." Because the train operator, Pan Am, based in North Billerica, MA, wasn't operating on a state-owned track, the Department of Transportation doesn't have jurisdiction, said spokesperson Bill Boynton. Source: <http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Feds+say+train+posed+little+threat+to+public&articleId=9623c32f-ca6b-4f18-bdbd-89243cef3d87>

14. *August 01, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-1163T: Aviation Finance: Observations on the Current FAA Funding Structure's Support for Aviation Activities, Issues Affecting Future Costs, and Proposed Funding Changes (Testimony).** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operates one of the safest air transportation systems in the world, but this system is under growing strain as the demand for air travel increases. Recognizing the need to transform this system, Congress created the Joint Planning and Development Office, housed within FAA, to plan and conceptualize the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). The current authorization for FAA, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund (Trust Fund), and most of the excise taxes that support the Trust Fund will expire September 30, 2007. Several proposals, including two reauthorization bills—H.R. 2881 and S. 1300—identify various funding sources for FAA activities, including NextGen. Among these are current excise taxes, fees, and flight surcharges. Concerned about the need for stable, sustainable financing for the nation's multibillion-dollar transportation infrastructure investments, including NextGen, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has designated transportation financing as high risk. GAO's statement addresses (1) the extent to which the current funding structure can support FAA's activities, including NextGen, (2) issues that could affect the overall cost of NextGen, and (3) the implications of selected proposals to fund aviation activities. The statement is based on recent GAO reports and testimonies. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d071163thigh.pdf> Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-1163T>

15. *August 01, Capital Times (WI)* — **Aircraft incident at Wisconsin airport Monday night.** Passengers on American Eagle Flight 3683 had a rough landing Monday night, July 30, at Dane County Regional Airport in Madison, WI, when the pilot apparently lost control of the steering on the Embraer ERJ 145 jetliner. The plane struck several runway lights and a sign before coming to a safe stop on the runway. No one was injured and damage was minimal to the

airport's equipment, said Dane County Regional Airport spokesperson Sharyn Wisniewski. There were 29 passengers and three crewmembers on board the regularly scheduled American Eagle flight from Dallas–Fort Worth, which arrived at about 10 p.m. instead of its 9:30 p.m. CDT arrival time. Investigators from the Flight Standards District Office of the Federal Aviation Administration in Milwaukee were at the airport Tuesday. Several above ground runway guide lights, about 8–10" high, were damaged as was a small runway guide sign. The runway was closed briefly Monday night so investigators could assess the damage to the lights and sign, Wisniewski said.

Source: <http://www.madison.com/tct/news/203779>

16. *August 01, CNN* — **At least three dead as Mississippi River bridge falls amid rush hour in Minneapolis.** At least three people were killed when an interstate bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, collapsed Wednesday evening, August 1, plunging cars and chunks of concrete into the Mississippi River below. There were "lots" of injuries, said the state Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department. The accident occurred shortly after 6 p.m. (7 p.m. EDT). There were 50 to 100 cars on the bridge at the time, according to early estimates. Lt. Amelia Huffman of the Minneapolis Police Department told CNN affiliate KARE it was "not clear at this point what caused the collapse" of the Interstate 35W bridge near University Avenue. Shortly after the collapse, a tractor trailer was burning on the bridge. Rescue workers are using boats to help remove people from the water, bringing them up on the river bank. Aerial footage showed the middle of the bridge caved in, lying in the Mississippi River, with cars both on top and submerged in the water. The main part of the collapsed span is not submerged, but the span clearly separated from the land–based sections of the highway on both the north and south ends of the bridge.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/08/01/bridge.collapse/index.html>

17. *July 31, USA TODAY* — **Border–crossing deaths on rise.** The number of illegal immigrants who have died trying to get into the United States is higher than ever this summer, calling into question assertions that tougher border enforcement has cut the flow of people, say immigration groups. A U.S. group that tries to reduce the number of illegal immigrants who die while trying to get across the border says an increase in such deaths this year suggests there has been no lessening in the flow of migrants. Robin Hoover, a pastor who runs Humane Borders out of Tucson, says people are skirting crossings where the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency has increased enforcement for more remote, deadly spots. The number found dead this year is 12 percent above the 138 people found dead during the same period in 2005, which was the deadliest year on record for border crossings in the Tucson region, said Bruce Parks, chief medical examiner for Pima County, which includes Tucson. The Border Patrol has sent more agents and improved technology into Arizona in recent years in an attempt to block what is the busiest corridor for illegal immigration from Mexico.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-07-31-border_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip

18. *July 31, Associated Press* — **Midwest Air starts buyout talks with AirTran, others.** The regional airline that has fought a hostile buyout from AirTran Holdings for months signaled Tuesday that it will consider the \$389 million offer. Midwest, operator of Midwest Airlines, announced a committee of its board of directors will start discussions with AirTran. The Orlando–based operator of low–cost AirTran Airways has long argued a combination of the

two would create a strong, national carrier. Midwest said its committee also will meet with other companies that have recently expressed interest in the airline. It did not name those companies Tuesday and was quick to caution that the discussions do not mean a buyout is imminent. "There is no assurance that this process will result in a transaction with AirTran or any other party," Midwest said. Midwest's largest shareholder, Octavian Advisors, was heartened by the news and wants the two sides to move as quickly as possible. The board has continually rejected all of AirTran's offers, saying the company is more profitable alone. But in Tuesday's news release, Midwest said its board could learn through the discussions that more money is to be made through a sale.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-07-31-midwest-airtran_N.htm

19. *July 31, Associated Press* — Newly out of bankruptcy, Northwest reports a profit.

Northwest Airlines, which emerged from bankruptcy protection on May 31, said on Tuesday, July 31, that it earned \$273 million during its second quarter before accounting boosts related to its reorganization. Including reorganization items Northwest earned \$2.15 billion, or \$8.20 per share, during the quarter that ended June 30. Northwest's finances benefited from \$1.94 billion in reorganization items during the quarter, which included two months operating under bankruptcy protection and one month after it emerged. Revenue for the quarter declined. Although Northwest's finances improved out of bankruptcy, it has been plagued by operating problems. It has had to cancel hundreds of flights at the end of June and July because it couldn't provide enough pilots for its planes. The airline said those problems cost it \$25 million during the second quarter. Northwest said it ended the quarter with \$4 billion in cash, including \$706 million set aside to pay certain obligations.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-07-31-nwa-q2-earn_N.htm

20. *July 31, Department of Transportation* — Maritime Administration announces commitment for U.S.-flagged vessels.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration announced an agreement that could lead to the first LNG ships registered in the United States in almost ten years, potentially creating almost 200 jobs for U.S. mariners. Officials from Woodside Natural Gas, Inc., of Santa Monica, CA, committed to Maritime Administrator Sean T. Connaughton and representatives from seafaring trade unions that Woodside will create a U.S. presence in the rapidly growing international liquefied natural gas (LNG) fleet. The company agreed to the employment of U.S. mariners in Woodside's operation of the proposed OceanWay deepwater port located 28 miles off the coast of Los Angeles, and to register its two new LNG re-gasification vessels under the U.S. flag. Although the global LNG fleet has been growing rapidly — from 194 ships at the beginning of 2006 to an estimated 373 at the end of 2007 — there are currently no LNG ships of American registry. Woodside's proposed OceanWay facility will use trading LNG carriers to transfer LNG to the U.S.-flagged re-gasification vessels, which will then convert the liquefied natural gas into natural gas for injection into Southern California's existing onshore pipeline system. More than 90 American officers and crew will be employed on each of the vessels.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/marad1207.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

21. *July 31, KPBS (CA)* — California tomato crop threatened by Mexican virus. Researchers say a disease that keeps tomatoes from growing came into Imperial County from Mexico. Now California agriculture officials want to keep it from infecting the state's tomato crop. The yellow leaf curl virus affects a variety of plants. But when the disease infects tomato plants, the plants don't produce fruit. Researchers say the virus was carried into Imperial County on white flies blown in from Mexico. It was found in several Imperial County locations including a high school greenhouse. California produces over 95 percent of the tomatoes in the U.S. used for prepared salsas, soups, ketchup and other products.

Source: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/local?id=9208>

22. *July 31, Associated Press* — Bluetongue spreads to 22 farms in the Netherlands.

Bluetongue, a virus affecting cows and other ruminant animals, has spread to 22 farms in the south of the Netherlands, the Agriculture Ministry said Tuesday, July 31. The disease is transmitted by certain species of midges once common only in Mediterranean climes. Experts say the insect has moved further north and Bluetongue may now be endemic in Northern Europe. The current Dutch infections are believed to have moved north from Belgium and west from Germany, ministry spokesperson Nynke van der Zee said.

Source: http://www.expatica.com/actual/article.asp?subchannel_id=1&story_id=42421

23. *July 30, Associated Press* — Anthrax cases reported in North Dakota. A cow in Traill County, ND, has tested positive for anthrax. State Veterinarian Susan Keller says it's the first case of anthrax in the state this year. Keller says the Traill County herd where the cow was found had about 18 animals. She says the herd has been quarantined and vaccinated.

Source: <http://www.kxmb.com/News/148247.asp>

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Food Sector

24. *August 01, Agence France–Presse* — Toxic bacteria blamed for mysterious Indonesian deaths. Toxic bacteria in a local delicacy most likely killed 10 Indonesians who died mysteriously last month in a village on the densely-populated island of Java, a senior health official said Wednesday, August 1. The deadly illness, which has also sickened 23 others in Kanigoro village in Central Java's Magelang district since July 22, has puzzled authorities and caused panicky villagers to flee the area. Almost all of the victims had eaten a local dish made from fermented soybean residue that was sold by a street vendor on July 21, said I Nyoman Kandun, the health ministry's director-general for contagious disease control. "There are indications that the victims died from a toxin, and it is strongly believed that the toxin was bongkreikic acid, produced by the bacterium *Pseudomonas cocovenenans*," he said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070801/hl_afp/indonesiahealth illness_070801073619

25. *August 01, China Daily* — **Chinese government departments held accountable for food safety violations.** District and county governments in Beijing, China, will be held responsible for any serious food safety violations in their areas, according to a regulation unveiled Tuesday, July 31. The Beijing Food Safety Administration said if its attention were drawn to any incident, it will investigate the concerned government departments in addition to food manufacturers. Officials will be punished for improper management or dereliction of duty, it said, adding that they will also be held accountable for failing to "plug food safety loopholes in time" or for "inflicting severe consequences" by not dealing with illegal activities.
Source: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-08/01/content_544687_3.htm
26. *July 31, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA announces program to enhance states' food safety programs.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Tuesday, July 31, launched a national program to bring about the adoption of more uniform, equivalent, and high quality regulatory programs by state agencies responsible for regulating facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food under FDA's jurisdiction. Currently, programmatic activities can vary from state to state and such variations can lead to inconsistencies in oversight of food safety. Adoption of voluntary standards for state regulatory programs will establish a uniform basis for measuring and improving the performance of state programs for regulating manufactured food and help the state and federal authorities reduce foodborne illness hazards in food facilities. The standards define best practices for the critical elements of state regulatory programs designed to protect the public from foodborne illness and injury.
Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01674.html>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

27. *July 31, Agence France-Presse* — **Third bird flu death in Vietnam in less than two months.** A 22-year-old pregnant woman has died of bird flu in Vietnam, hospital sources said Tuesday, July 31, bringing the death toll in the country to three in less than two months. "Tests were positive for the H5N1 virus," the source said, adding that the woman had been seven months pregnant. Her death brings to 45 the number of people who have died of bird flu in Vietnam since 2003. Two people — a 20-year-old man and a 28-year-old woman — died in June of avian influenza, the first fatalities announced since November 2005. Since May, six human cases have been reported, three of them fatal. Outbreaks have been reported since early May across 18 of Vietnam's 64 provinces and municipalities, mostly among unvaccinated ducks and other waterfowl. After authorities stepped up calls for vigilance, the agriculture ministry recently reported that only three provinces were still battling the problem.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070731/hl_afp/healthfluvietnam_070731174100;_ylt=Akkse5eIhlCPv0PeY5GoW2KJOrgF

Government Sector

28. *August 01, Associated Press* — **Long Island boy pleads guilty to school plot.** A 15-year-old boy accused of plotting to attack Connetquot High School in Bohemia on the anniversary of the Columbine massacre pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of attempted conspiracy. The teenager, who has not been identified since his arrest last month along with 17-year-old Michael McDonough, entered the plea Tuesday, July 31, in Family Court on Long Island. He originally was charged with fifth-degree conspiracy, a misdemeanor. Police said they found notes referring to the April, 20, 1999, attack at Colorado's Columbine High School, where two student gunmen killed 12 classmates and a teacher before killing themselves. McDonough was charged as an adult with misdemeanor conspiracy, punishable by up to a year in jail, and is free on \$50,000 bond. The 15-year-old was sent to a children's psychiatric center while awaiting sentencing and is due back in court August 21.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/T/TEEN_BOMB_THREAT?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Emergency Services Sector

29. *July 31, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares emergency federal aid for the Federated States Of Micronesia.** The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Tuesday, July 31, that federal aid has been made available to supplement national and state response efforts in the area impacted by a drought beginning on March 5, 2007, and continuing. FEMA Director David Paulison said federal funding is available to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the islands of Kuttu, Lukunoch, Onanu, Oneop, Onou, and Tamatam within Chuuk State.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=38291>

30. *July 31, Congress Daily* — **Concerns persist over FEMA's readiness for disasters.** House lawmakers said Tuesday, July 31, they remain concerned that the Bush administration might not be as prepared as it should be to handle a catastrophe or multiple disasters that occur simultaneously. Members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee expressed their concerns during a hearing to assess how prepared the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Guard are to handle disasters. But FEMA Administrator David Paulison said his agency is better prepared to handle disasters than it was when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast almost two years ago. He also said the Bush administration will release a new national response plan "hopefully within a week." The plan is the government's blueprint detailing how agencies will respond and coordinate during emergencies. It was supposed to be issued last month.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37617&dcn=to daysnews

31. *July 31, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-1142T: Homeland Security: Observations on DHS and FEMA Efforts to Prepare for and Respond to Major and Catastrophic Disasters and Address Related Recommendations and Legislation, by William O. Jenkins, Jr., director, homeland security and justice issues, before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Testimony).** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) faces the simultaneous challenges of preparing for the season and implementing the reorganization and other provisions of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006. The Act stipulated major changes to FEMA that were intended to enhance its preparedness for and response to catastrophic and major disasters. As the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has reported, FEMA and DHS face continued challenges, including clearly defining leadership roles and responsibilities, developing necessary disaster response capabilities, and establishing accountability systems to provide effective services while protecting against waste, fraud, and abuse. This testimony (1) summarizes GAO's findings on these challenges and FEMA's and DHS's efforts to address them; and (2) discusses several disaster management issues for continued congressional attention. This testimony includes no new recommendations, but identifies issues to which Congress, FEMA, and DHS may wish to give continued attention so that FEMA may fulfill the requirements of the Post-Katrina Reform Act. These issues are based on the findings and recommendations of more than 30 Katrina-related GAO reports. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d071142thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-1142T>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *August 01, IDG News Service* — **Security update seeks out, erases modifications to iPhone.** A security update for Apple's iPhone does more than just fix critical flaws in the handset. It also looks for and wipes out any modifications that users make to the firmware on their phones, according to hackers looking to unlock the phone. But the security update does not break any of the tools that hackers have so far developed to modify the iPhone's firmware, they said. The iPhone v1.0.1 update primarily addresses a security flaw uncovered in the handset's Safari browser that was to be detailed Thursday, August 2, at the Black Hat 2007 conference in Las Vegas. That vulnerability, uncovered by researchers at Independent Security Evaluators, allows an attacker to access data and applications on the phone from a Wi-Fi access point or a malicious Website.
iPhone v1.0.1 Update: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=306173>
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/08/01/Security-update-to-iPhone_1.html
33. *August 01, Sophos* — **Sophos announces top ten Web and e-mail-borne threats for July 2007.** Sophos has revealed the most prevalent malware threats causing problems for computer users around the world during July 2007. The figures, compiled by Sophos' global network of monitoring stations, show a significant rise in the prevalence of the Mal/ObfJS family of Web threats — up from just 1.8 percent last month to 17.3 percent this month. Despite this growth, Mal/ObfJS has not been able to dislodge Mal/Iframe from its number one position, accounting

for more than half of all Web threats seen by Sophos. The top ten list of Web-based malware threats in July 2007 are as follows: 1) Mal/Iframe; 2) Mal/ObfJS; 3) Troj/Psyme; 4) Troj/Decdec; 5) Troj/Fujif; 6) Mal/Zlob; 7) VBS/Edibara; 8) Mal/Packer; 9) Mal/Behav; 9) VBS/Redlof. Experts at Sophos note that the prominence of both threats in the top ten emphasizes the popularity of the drive-by download technique with cybercriminals, as well as continued growth in the use of obfuscated Javascripts in compromising sites.

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/08/topt enjul07.html>

- 34. July 31, Reuters — FCC sets airwaves auction rule.** The winner of valuable wireless airwaves the U.S. government plans to sell by early next year would have to permit consumers to connect using any device or software, U.S. regulators decided on Tuesday, July 31. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to shake up the wireless market by approving a set of ground-rules for the upcoming auction that would require the winner to make them accessible to any phone, other device or application. The requirement will apply to the 22 megahertz to be sold to a commercial provider, however FCC commissioners noted it would not apply to existing airwaves held by carriers. The airwaves to be sold in the 700-megahertz band can travel long distances and penetrate thick walls. The auction, which will be done with anonymous bidding, is seen as a last chance for a major new player to enter the wireless market.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2164621.00.asp>

- 35. July 31, Reuters — Notebook makers face parts shortage.** Makers of laptop computers are facing a shortage of components that could get worse this quarter, semiconductor price tracker and electronics market researcher DRAmEXchange said on Tuesday, July 31. DRAmEXchange said notebook makers began to experience tight supply of LCD panels, batteries, hard disc drives, casings and optical disc drives last quarter. "The situation could grow more serious in 3Q07, as quarterly shipments are expected to exceed 25.6 million, a quarter-on-quarter increase of 14.4 percent," it said.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2164635.00.asp>

- 36. July 31, ComputerWorld — Researcher blasts Zango for violating deal with FTC over adware.** A noted spyware researcher on Tuesday, July 31, charged adware distributor Zango Inc. with numerous violations of a settlement struck last year with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) that forbids the company from installing its pop-up and banner-serving software on a computer without getting a user's clear approval. In several descriptions illustrated with screenshots, Ben Edelman of Harvard University laid out evidence of what he said are widespread Zango practices that the company was barred from using in the November 2006 deal with the FTC. Tuesday, Edelman said the company has been ignoring the settlement. "Zango continues numerous practices likely to confuse, deceive or otherwise harm typical users" and also engages in "practices specifically contrary to Zango's obligations." In a long post on his Website, Edelman showed examples of recent online encounters with Zango adware installations that, he said, do not meet the criteria set by the FTC to inform a potential user of what he is about to download.

Edelman's Website: <http://www.benedelman.org/spyware/zango-violations/>

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9028558&intsrc=hm_list

37.

July 31, Federal Computer Week — DoD mandates data encryption for mobile devices.

Pentagon officials must ensure certain data stored on mobile devices is encrypted in compliance with the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Federal Information Processing Standard 140–2, according to a new Department of Defense (DoD) policy. The policy, signed on July 3 by Pentagon Chief Information Officer John Grimes, mandates that all unclassified data not approved for public release should be treated as sensitive and must be encrypted. The policy does not apply to information cleared for public release. The term mobile devices describes laptop PCs and personal digital assistants, as well as removable storage media, like thumb drives and compact discs, Grimes wrote in a memo. The policy instructs Pentagon officials to pay particular attention to the encryption of mobile devices used by senior DoD officials, like flag officers and senior executives, who travel frequently outside the continental United States. According to Grimes, the loss or theft of mobile devices storing U.S. defense information abroad is especially severe.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article103374-07-31-07-Web>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

38. July 31, ABC News — Shopping mall plotter pleads guilty. A suspect originally accused of plotting to attack shopping malls four years ago has pleaded guilty to providing material support to terrorists. Somali national Nuradin Abdi is an associate of Iyman Faris, who was tasked by 9/11 mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed to bring down the Brooklyn Bridge. Abdi and Faris allegedly discussed targeting malls in the Midwest and attacking landmarks in Washington, DC, with missiles. Faris became a government informant against Abdi after pleading guilty several years ago to providing material support to al Qaeda. According to the plea agreement, Abdi first entered the U.S. in 1995 using a false passport. He illegally entered the states again in 1997 from Canada. Abdi was later granted asylum in the U.S. based on a series of false statements. He became friends with al Qaeda operatives Faris and Christopher Paul in Ohio, according to the U.S. government. "Christopher Paul was later arrested and indicted in April 2007 on charges of providing material support, conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists, and conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction in the southern district of Ohio," read government records. Abdi told FBI agents that in August 2002, he proposed a plot to bomb a shopping mall.

Source: <http://www.abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/story?id=3433297&page=1>

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